CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for providing personalized time-shifted media programming

2   comprising:

3   retrieving digital media content from a library;

4   storing in the media content for subsequent playback; and

5   storing a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the subset of

6   media content is automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a

7   user's predetermined specifications.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media

2   content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment of a dynamically

3   changing particular audio content.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of storing a subset of the media

2   content further comprises the steps of:

3   determining a selected segment length;

4   determining a selected particular media content; and

5   storing a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device

6   having a length of the selected segment length.

1   , 5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media

2   content comprises automatically storing a most recent episode in a series of episodes.   .

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media

2   content further comprises the steps of:

3   determining an media program having a series of episodes;

4   retrieving a particular episode in the series of episodes; and

5   retrieving an episode subsequent to the particular episode when the particular

6   episode has been consumed.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media

2   content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment from a series of audio

3   content having multiple segments.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media

2   content further comprises the steps of:

3   selecting a segment of the media content;

4   storing a portion of the media content in a playback device;

5   determining an amount of the portion of the media content consumed, if any; and

6   storing a subsequent portion of the media content corresponding to the amount of

7   the portion of media content consumed in the playback device.

1   9.   An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming

2   comprising:

3   means for retrieving digital content from a library;

4   means for storing in the content for subsequent playback; and

5   means for storing a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the

6   subset of media content is automatically selected to update consumed media content

7   according to a user's predetermined specifications.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the

2   content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent segment of a

3   dynamically changing particular content.

1   11.   The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the step of storing a subset of the

2   content further comprises:

3   means for determining a selected segment length;

4   means for determining a selected particular content; and

5   means for storing a segment of the selected particular content in the playback

6   device having a length of the selected segment length.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the

2   content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent episode in a series of

3   episodes.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the

2   content further comprises:

3   means for determining an program having a series of episodes;

4   means for retrieving a most recent episode in the series of episodes; and

5   means for storing the most recent episode in a playback device.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the

2   content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent segment in a static

3   content.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the

2   content further comprises:

3   means for selecting a static content;

4   means for storing a portion of the static content in a playback device;

5   means for determining an amount of the portion of the static content consumed, if

6   any; and

7   means for storing a subsequent portion of the static content corresponding to the

8   amount of the portion of static content consumed in the playback device.

1   17.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of

2   sequences of instructions including sequences of instructions which, when executed by a

3   processor, cause the processor to:

4   retrieve digital media content from a library;

5   store the media content for subsequent playback; and

6   store a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the subset of

7   media content is automatically selected to provide media content according to a user's

8   predetermined specifications.

1   18.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of

2   instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to

3   automatically store a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular media

4   content.

1   19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of

2   instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:

3   determine a selected segment length;

4   determine a selected particular media content; and

5   store a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device

6   having a length of the selected segment length.

1   20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of

2   instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to

3   automatically store a most recent episode in a series of episodes.

1   21.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of

2   instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:

3   determine an media program having a series of episodes;

4   retrieve a most recent episode in the series of episodes; and

5   store the most recent episode in a playback device.

1   22.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of

2   instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to

3   automatically store a most recent segment in a static media content.

1   23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of

2   instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:

3   select a static media content;

4   store a portion of the static media content in a playback device;

5   determining an amount of the portion of the static media content consumed, if any; and

6   store a subsequent portion of the static media content corresponding to the amount

7   of the portion of static media content consumed in the playback device.

1   24.   An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming

2   comprising:

3   a library access device that provides access to a library;

4   a storage device coupled to the library access device that stores content retrieved

5   from the library; and

6   a playback device having a memory and an interface coupled to the storage

7   device;

8   wherein the playback device stores a selected content that is a subset of the

9   content stored by the storage device, and further wherein the selected content is

10   determined automatically based on predetermined user content selections.

1   25.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is a personal

2   computer.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is an Internet

2   terminal.

1   27.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is a dedicated

2   audio library access device.

1   28.   The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the storage device is a magnetic disk.

1   29.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the storage device is an optical disc.

1   30.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the storage device is a flash memory.

1   31.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the playback device memory

2   comprises flash memory.